

Patent
Attorney Docket: AUS920010272US1
(IBM/0010)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Following is a replacement claim set:

1. (currently amended) A method for selecting a printer for printing a print job, the method comprising:

identifying one or more attributes of the print job;
associating an attribute bit setting for each of the one or more identified attributes;
matching the one or more attribute bit settings of the print job with attributes listed in an attribute-printer assignment table;

identifying the printer from the attribute-printer assignment table designated to handle print jobs by having the matching one or more attribute bit settings; and

~~directing, using user-defined instructions,~~ the print job to [[a]] the identified printer
~~capable of handling the one or more attributes.~~

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating the plurality of print jobs using one or more application programs running in a computer that is in communication with one or more printers.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more attributes are selected from file type, application identity, color content, print resolution, page size [[and]] or combinations thereof.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute-printer assignment table comprises a list of available printers and the attributes associated with each of the available printers, the method further comprising:

entering ~~the user-defined instructions~~ the list of available printers and the attributes associated with each of the available printers through a graphical user interface.

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5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein the attribute bit setting for each of the one or more identified attributes is set by an application program or a printer handler. further comprising:
identifying the available printers; and
assigning one or more of the available printers for use with print jobs having the one or more attributes.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
storing the attribute-printer assignment table ~~user-defined instructions~~ in memory for access by the printer handler.
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) A computer program product including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium for selecting a printer for printing a print job, the instructions comprising:
identifying instructions for identifying one or more attributes of the print job;
associating instructions for associating an attribute bit setting for each of the one or more identified attributes;
matching instructions for matching the one or more attribute bit settings of the print job with attributes listed in an attribute-printer assignment table;
identifying instructions for identifying the printer from the attribute-printer assignment table designated to handle print jobs by having the matching one or more attribute bit settings;
and
~~user-defined instructions for directing instructions for directing, using user defined instructions, the print job to [[a]]~~ the identified printer capable of handling the one or more attributes.
9. (original) The computer program product of claim 8, further comprising:

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generating instructions for generating the plurality of print jobs, wherein the generating instructions are capable of running one or more application programs in communication with one or more printers.

10. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the one or more attributes are selected from file type, application identity, color content, print resolution, page size ~~[[and]]~~ or combinations thereof.

11. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the attribute-printer assignment table comprises a list of available printers and the attributes associated with each of the available printers, the computer program product further comprising:

entering instructions for entering the user-defined instructions the list of available printers and the attributes associated with each of the available printers through a graphical user interface.

12. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 11, wherein the attribute bit setting for each of the one or more identified attributes is set by an application program or a printer handler further comprising:

identifying instructions for identifying available printers; and
assigning instructions for assigning one or more of the available printers for use with jobs having the one or more attributes.

13. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

data storage and retrieval instructions for enabling one or more printer handlers to access the user-defined instructions

storing instructions for storing the attribute-printer assignment table in memory for access by the printer handler.

14. (cancelled)